

Office of Water Management

The Office of Water Management (OWM) works to make Indiana's waters safe for Hoosiers to drink, for recreation and aquatic life through the following initiatives:

- Improving the permit process
- Reducing drinking water and wastewater compliance violations
- Developing water quality rulemaking
- Improving water quality data

Permits and Compliance

IDEM's wastewater discharge operating permits help protect and improve the quality of Indiana's waters. In order to provide better permitting service, OWM has streamlined its permit process, and virtually eliminated the backlog of administratively extended wastewater discharge operating permits. Only six percent of permits remained pending as of June 30, 1999.

In 1998, OWM established goals for reducing the percent of municipal wastewater treatment facilities in noncompliance. The number of major wastewater treatment

facilities, typically those facilities with average design flows of more than one million gallons per day, with significant violations was reduced to 16 percent. The compliance section exceeded its goal of reducing the number of minor facilities with significant violations, achieving a reduction to 26 percent.

Rulemaking

OWM focused its rulemaking activities on incorporating the newest scientific knowledge on toxics and human and biological health and dedicated its efforts to developing rules to create cleaner, safer Indiana waters. In 1999, OWM published two landmark second notice draft rules, Surface Water Quality Standards and Indiana's first-ever Ground Water Quality Standards.

OWM's rulemaking, the cornerstone of water quality benchmarking, incorporated the best scientific practices used in the Great Lakes Initiative, an effort to protect the Great Lakes through consistent state regulations and strict protections for humans, fish and wildlife.

- *Reduced NPDES permit backlog to 6%*
- *Obtained 3,700 water samples from 153 fixed stations*
- *Assessed three river basins for environmental quality*



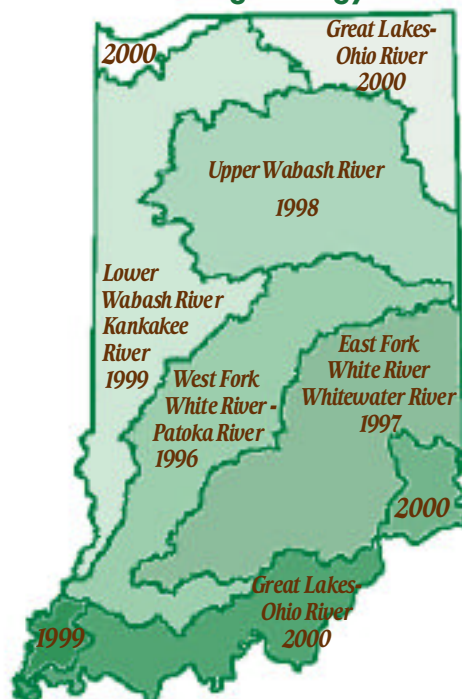


Water Quality Data

During fiscal years 1998 and 1999, IDEM completed water quality samples at its 153 fixed stations, 48 more fixed stations than existed two years ago. IDEM used 3,700 samples collected from these fixed stations to evaluate the health of Indiana's streams and determine if they are impaired. IDEM also used the information in reports to Congress and the public and in OWM permit writing. The data collected from the fixed stations will serve as the foundation for future trends in water quality.

Data from the fixed stations is used in the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Strategy. The strategy assesses the quality of Indiana's surface waters on a regional basis. Indiana is divided into five basin regions for sampling once every five years. The strategy is designed to determine the overall environmental quality of each basin and to identify which parts of the river basins are impaired and do not meet water quality standards. IDEM assessed the East Fork White River-Whitewater River, Upper Wabash River and Lower Wabash River-Kankakee River basins between July 1997 and June 1999.

Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Strategy



National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Backlog Reduction Progress Report

